

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A member for use in a vacuum bandage connected to a vacuum source and for use with a wound having a wound surface, the member comprising
a wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer having a bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface,
a plurality of discrete holes extending through the bottom surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer,
a cover coupled to the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer,
at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover, wherein the at least one discrete opening is open at the top surface such that negative pressure is communicated to an undermined portion of the wound through the at least one discrete opening, and
a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source, the port being in fluid communication with each discrete hole and the at least one discrete opening.
2. (Currently Amended) The member of claim 1, wherein the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer has a top surface having a plurality of channels formed therein, and wherein the cover has a bottom surface that engages with the top surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer and cooperates with the channels formed in the top surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways between the port and each discrete hole and between the port and the at least one discrete opening.
3. (Currently Amended) The member of claim 2, wherein the cover has a first surface area and the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer has a second surface area larger than the first surface area, and wherein the channels of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer extend beyond an outer edge of the cover ~~to define a plurality of the discrete openings.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The member of claim 2, wherein the ~~cover includes a plurality of discrete holes~~ at least one discrete opening comprises a plurality of discrete openings in communication with the channels of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer ~~to define a plurality of the discrete openings.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The member of claim 1, wherein the at least one discrete opening comprises a plurality of discrete openings extending through the top surface of the cover and adapted to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portions of the wound.

6. (Currently Amended) The member of claim 5, wherein ~~the at least one discrete opening is positioned to engage an undermined portion of the wound~~ the cover includes an outer peripheral portion and the plurality of discrete openings are formed in the outer peripheral portion of the cover.

7. (Original) The member of claim 6, wherein the member is relatively thin and flexible.

8. (Currently Amended) A bandage connectable to a vacuum source for use with a wound having a wound surface, the bandage comprising

a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source,

a wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer having a bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface, a plurality of discrete channels extending along a top surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer, the channels being in communication with the port, and a plurality of discrete holes opening through the bottom surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer, and

a cover coupled to the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer and having a generally planar bottom surface that engages the top surface of the wound contactable layer and cooperates ~~cooperating~~ with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each hole with the port, the cover having a first surface area and the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer having a second surface larger than the first surface area, outer portions of the channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portion of the wound.

9. (Currently Amended) A member for use in a vacuum bandage connected to a vacuum source and for use with a wound having a wound surface, the member comprising

a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source,

a wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer having a bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface, a plurality of discrete channels extending along a top surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer, the channels being in communication with the port, a first plurality of discrete holes opening through the bottom surface of the wound

~~contacting~~ contactable layer and adapted to communicate negative pressure to the wound surface, and

a cover coupled to the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer, a second plurality of discrete holes opening through a top surface of the cover and which are open at the top surface, the cover having a bottom surface cooperating with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each first discrete hole and each second discrete hole with the port, the cover having a first surface area and the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer having a second surface area larger than the first surface area, outer portions of channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the wound ~~contacting~~ contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels, the second plurality of discrete holes and the plurality of peripheral access channels adapted to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.

10. (Previously Presented) The member of claim 9, wherein the member is relatively thin and flexible.

11. (Original) The member of claim 10, wherein the cover includes an outer peripheral portion and the second plurality of discrete holes are formed in the outer peripheral portion.

12. (Canceled)